

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PEKING 01427 200925Z

12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAJ-01 SAM-01 NIC-01 EUR-25 DRC-01 /133 W

----- 124415

R 200825Z AUG 74

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2267

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1427

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PINT, CH

SUBJECT: CHIANG CHING'S IMAGE AND PEKING POLITICS

REF: HONG KONG 9155

1) USLO HAD ALSO NOTED OMISSION OF REFERENCE TO CHIANG CHING IN NCNA ENGLISH VERSION OF ITEM COVERING OPENING IN PEKING OF FOUR-PROVINCE THEATRICAL FESTIVAL. HOWEVER, WHILE CHIANG CHING'S POLITICAL ROLE CONTINUES TO BE EQUIVOCAL AND POSSIBLY CONTROVERSIAL, WE WONDER IF SENSITIVITY TO FOREIGN SPECULATION ABOUT CHIANG'S ROLE IN CURRENT POLITICAL AFFAIRS MAY HAVE BEEN BASIC FACTOR WHICH OCCASIONED THIS OMISSION. ONLY ONE DAY EARLIER NCNA ENGLISH FILE CARRIED A REPRINT OF ARTICLE FIRST APPEARING IN PEOPLE'S DAILY BACK IN JULY ON "NEW REVOLUTIONARY LITERATURE AND ART" WHICH CONTAINED REFERENCE TO CHIANG CHING'S JULY 5, 1974 SPEECH ON REVOLUTION OF PEKING OPERA. THIS REFERENCE ALMOST IDENTICAL TO PASSAGE OMITTED FROM AUGUST 12 NCNA ITEM.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PEKING 01427 200925Z

2. IN STUDYING OMITTED PASSAGE WE NOTED THERE ARE OTHER

ELEMENTS IN IT TOWARD WHICH PEKING LEADERSHIP MIGHT POSSIBLY HAVE SPECIAL SENSITIVITIES. FOR EXAMPLE, THERE WAS REFERENCE TO PARTICIPANTS IN CURRENT THEATRICAL FESTIVAL INTER ALIA WELCOMING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PRC.

3. WE SUSPECT THAT SENSITIVE ELEMENT WHICH LAY BEHIND OMISSION OF THIS PARAGRAPH WAS INDEED ITS REFERENCE TO WELCOMING 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF PRC ESTABLISHMENT. A NUMBER OF DIPLOMATS AND ATTACHES IN PEKING OVER PAST SEVERAL WEEKS HAVE BEEN ASKING CHINESE CONTACTS WHETHER OR NOT SOMETHING SPECIAL IN WAY OF OCTOBER 1ST CELEBRATION MIGHT BE EXPECTED THIS YEAR TO COMMEMORATE 25TH ANNIVERSARY, AND RESPONSE HAS BEEN EQUIVOCAL. MEMBER OF PLA/MND INTERNATIONAL LIAISON DEPARTMENT TOLD CANADIAN MILITARY ATTACHE UPON BEING QUESTIONED THIS POINT THAT MORE ATTENTION WOULD IN FACT BE DEVOTED TO 25TH ANNIVERSARY, BUT THEN BACKED AWAY AND SAID THAT MATTER STILL BEING CONSIDERED; OTHER DIPLOMATIC SOURCES HAVE TOLD US OF SIMILAR EXPERIENCES WHEN TALKING WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY PERSONNEL. CHINESE HAVE FREQUENTLY ADDED THAT THEIR CUSTOM IS NOT TO CELEBRATE 5 YEAR INCREMENTS SINCE PRC'S ESTABLISHMENT BUT RATHER 10 YEAR INCREMENTS, THUS PLAYING DOWN SIGNIFICANCE OF 25TH ANNIVERSARY.

4. ON BALANCE, WE BELIEVE TOP LEADERSHIP MIGHT WELL WISH TO GIVE SPECIAL TREATMENT TO 25TH ANNIVERSARY PROVIDED THIS CAN BE DONE WITHOUT CALLING UNDUE ATTENTION TO PROBLEM AREAS SUCH AS ALIGNMENTS WITHIN LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE, POSSIBLE CONVENING OF NATIONAL PARTY CONGRESS, ETC. SYMPTOMATIC OF DIFFICULTIES AT PRESENT MOMENT, AMONG THE FIVE VICE CHAIRMAN OF CCP, CHOU EN-LAI, YEH CHIEN-YING, AND KANG SHENG REPORTEDLY ARE SICK AND LI TE-SHENG APPEARS TO BE IN POLITICAL DIFFICULTY. THIS LEAVES ONLY WANG HUNG-WEN POLITICALLY ACTIVE. ABSENCE OF OTHERS AT FORMAL CEREMONIES WOULD CERTAINLY BE OBSERVED AND CAUSE SPECULATIONS. (THERE IS ALSO THE PERENNIAL QUESTION OF WHETHER MAO TSE-TUNG COULD MAKE A PUBLIC APPEARANCE) THESE MAY BE THE MOST OBVIOUS OF THE COMPLEXITIES BESETTING THE REGIME AT THIS POINT IN TIME, OTHERS OF WHICH INCLUDE OF COURSE THE POLITICAL ROLE OF CHIANG CH'ING.

5. WITH OCTOBER 1 NOW LESS THAN SIX WEEKS AWAY AND RUMOR OF IMPENDING NATIONAL PARTY CONGRESS BEGINNING TO MOUNT, WE EXPECT THAT DEVELOPMENTS OVER NEXT FEW WEEKS SHOULD GIVE

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PEKING 01427 200925Z

US A CLEARER PICTURE OF WHAT TOP LEADERSHIP INTENDS TO DO OVER THIS TRADITIONAL PERIOD OF CELEBRATION.
BRUCE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARTS, POLITICAL LEADERS, SOCIAL CHANGE, COMMEMMORATIVE CELEBRATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PEKING01427
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X2
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740228-1124
From: PEKING
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740833/aaaabcda.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: HONG KONG 9155
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 JUL 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <03 MAR 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHIANG CHING'S IMAGE AND PEKING POLITICS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PDEV, CH, (CHIANG CHING)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005